

# COVID-19

Wednesday, June 11, 2020

## NEW VIDEO: PHASE 2 REMINDERS

The Joint Information Center has created a video to remind the community how to keep your household and friends safe from the spread of COVID-19 under Phase 2. Link at right.

## PHASE 2 TOOLKIT FOR CONTRACTORS AVAILABLE FROM MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

The Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties (MBAKS) has created a Phase 2 Toolkit to help contractors get back to work while following best practices. Link at right.

## EVERETT FACE COVER DONATION / DISTRIBUTION SITES

Everett Emergency Management continues to collect and distribute face covers thanks to the generous donations and excellent sewing skills of community members. Locations listed at right.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

### New Video: Friends and Phase 2

The Joint Information Center published a new video reminding the community how to keep your household and friends safe from the spread of COVID-19 under Phase 2.

For more information please watch the [video](#) and review [Safe Start guidance](#).

### Phase 2 Toolkit for Contractors Available from Master Builders Association

The [Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties \(MBAKS\)](#) has created a [Phase 2 Toolkit](#) to help contractors get back to work while following best practices set out by Governor Jay Inslee. The Phase 2 Toolkit expands on the requirements laid out in the [Phase 1 Toolkit](#), with templates for a comprehensive Phase 2 plan, a cleaning plan, and a job hazard analysis, as well as COVID-19 safety posters, a list of the required PPE, and daily onsite checklists for current best practices. The toolkit also provides a variety of other resources, such as memos from Gov. Inslee's office and guidance for how to properly use face coverings.

For more information please review MBAKS [Phase 2 Toolkit](#).

### Everett Face Cover Donation/Distribution Sites

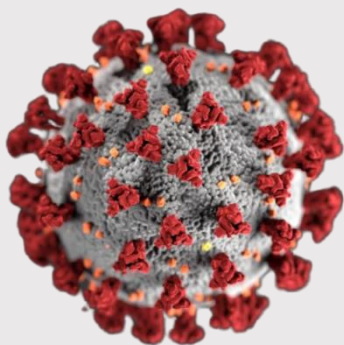
Everett Emergency Management continues to collect and distribute face covers thanks to the generous donations and excellent sewing skills of community members. Stop by the drive-thru sites through June to donate face covers or pick one up while supplies last. Walk-ups are also welcome and all face cover donations are greatly appreciated.

- Mondays, June 15 & 22, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Evergreen Branch Library, 9512 Evergreen Way
- Wednesdays, June 17 & 24, 1 – 4 p.m., Lowell Park, 4605 S 3rd Ave.
- Fridays, June 19 & 26, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Boys and Girls Club, 2316 12th St.

Learn more about making, donating, and caring for face covers at [everettwa.gov/facecovers](http://everettwa.gov/facecovers).

**FACE COVER**  
donation &  
distribution  
drive-thru





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## FOOD DRIVE IN MILL CREEK TOMORROW 9 AM TO 11 AM

Mill Creek Rotary Club will be collecting food June 12 for the Mill Creek Food Bank.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER: STOP THE SPREAD BY STAYING LOCAL

Stay close to home if you do hit the road for a hike or a day trip.

## NEW Q&A ON MASKS FOR EMPLOYEES

L&I has answers to questions about wearing masks in the workplace.

## OSPI ANNOUNCES NEW GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS REOPENING IN THE FALL

An overview of new guidance related to school reopening in the fall was announced earlier today. Links to the planning guide and the recording of the press conference are at right.

## INSLEE ANNOUNCES #WEARAMASKWA INITIATIVE

The state has teamed up with Restart Partners to launch the "Wear A Mask" Initiative and is asking Washingtonians to submit videos of themselves answering the question: "Why do you wear a mask?" See the link at right for more information and how to send in your video.

## Food Drive in Mill Creek Tomorrow 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.

The Mill Creek Rotary Club will once again be collecting food June 12 for the Mill Creek Food Bank located at Gold Creek Church. Donations will be picked up around the community from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

## Important Reminder: Stop the Spread by Staying Local

As counties are reopening and the weather warms up, it can be tempting to hit the road for a hike or day trip out of town. To prevent COVID-19 from spreading across county lines, it's important to stay close to home. Remember, staying home is still safest, but if you do go out: stay six feet from others, wear a face covering, wash your hands, and stay local. Printable flyers and graphics for social media are available at: <https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>.

## A successful **Safe Start** means we all have to do our part.

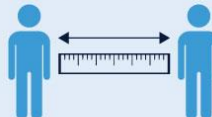
**It's safest to stay home.**

### BUT IF YOU HEAD OUT:

**Wear a mask.**



**Stay six feet apart.**



**Wash your hands.**



**Prevent the spread by staying local.**

## New Q&A from L&I on Masks for Employees

What does it mean to be "working alone?" What if my employee has a health condition that makes it unsafe to wear a mask? L&I has a [new Q&A](#) to help employers understand the new requirements around face coverings in the workplace. This is in addition to their recent guide, [Which Mask for Which Task?](#).

## OSPI Announces New Guidance for Schools Reopening in the Fall

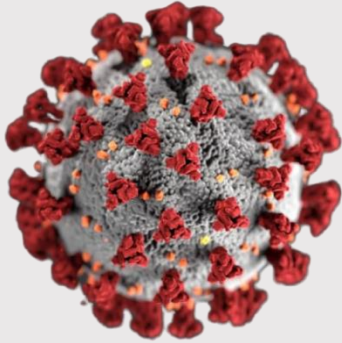
The Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Chris Reykdal held a press conference to provide an overview of new guidance related to school reopening in the fall.

For more information please review the [Reopening Washington Schools 2020 District Planning Guide](#).

Tune into [TVW](#) to watch the recording.

## Inslee Announces #WearAMaskWA Initiative

Wearing a facial covering is one of the easiest, most effective things we can all do to prevent the spread of this virus. The governor announced the state has already made emergency distributions of more than 1 million cloth facial coverings with another 4 million masks on order. The state has teamed up with Restart Partners to launch the "Wear A Mask" Initiative and is asking Washingtonians to submit videos of themselves answering the question: "Why do you wear a mask?" For more information check out [restart.us/wearamaskwa/](https://restart.us/wearamaskwa/).



# COVID-19

## DOH LAUNCHES ASL COVID-19 RESOURCE PAGE

DOH has launched a new webpage for resources in American Sign Language.

## ESD PROVIDES UPDATE ON PAUSED PAYMENTS DUE TO FRAUD CHECKS

If you were receiving benefits but they were paused on the weekend of May 15 due to ESD's efforts to combat imposter fraud, ESD expects to have those claims resolved by Friday, June 19.

## NEW CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY DOWN 2% FROM THE WEEK BEFORE

Employment Security Department (ESD) has reported new claims for benefits in Snohomish County are down 2% from the week before. Details on statewide and Snohomish County data are at right.



## DOH Launches ASL COVID-19 Resource Page

The Washington Department of Health (DOH) is committed to equity and accessibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. By ensuring that all communities and Washingtonians have access to COVID-19 pandemic information and resources to make informed choices. DOH has launched a new webpage for resources in American Sign Language (ASL).

For COVID-19 information in ASL, please visit DOH's [webpage](#).

## ESD Provides Update on Paused Payments Due to Fraud Checks

The Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) released an update on Wednesday, June 10, regarding paused payments due to fraud checks:

If you were receiving benefits but they were paused on the weekend of May 15 due to ESD's efforts to combat imposter fraud, ESD expects to have those claims resolved by Friday, June 19, so payments can start again for legitimate customers. Please be sure you've provided all documents that ESD has requested to verify your ID and information.

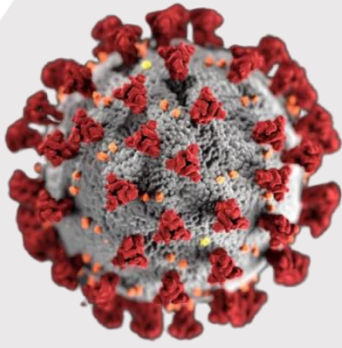
For more information please visit ESD's [webpage](#).

## New Claims for Unemployment Benefits in Snohomish County Down 2% from the Week Before

During the week of May 31-June 6, there were 29,713 initial regular unemployment claims, down 4.8% from the prior week and 729,053 total claims for all unemployment benefit categories filed by Washingtonians, according to the Employment Security Department (ESD).

**ESD believes the continued decrease is due to a variety of reasons, including fraud prevention measures and more people going back to work with the reopening of some industry sectors and regions over the past three weeks.**





# COVID-19

## AG FERGUSON CHALLENGES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DECISION BLOCKING CORONAVIRUS AID FOR WASHINGTON STUDENTS

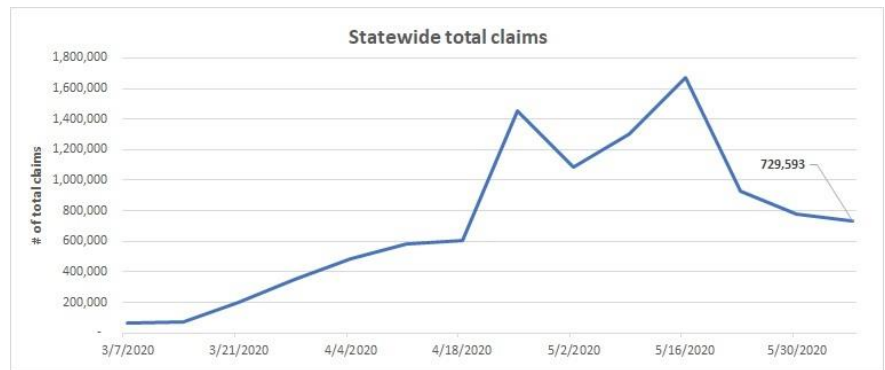
Attorney General Bob Ferguson will be asking the court today to immediately block restrictions placed on student aid under the CARES Act.

## NEW DOH BLOG: LESSONS FROM THE 1918 FLU PANDEMIC

A new blog from the Washington State Department of Health discusses the lessons learned from the 1918 flu pandemic.

## PPP CONTINUES TO OFFER GRANTS AND LOANS

PPP funds are still available for small businesses, independent contractors, nonprofits, and tribal businesses whose operations were impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.



In addition, during the week of May 31-June 6, ESD paid out over \$545.3 million for 420,772 individual claims.

Since the week ending March 7 when COVID-19 job losses began:

- A total of 1,168,129 distinct individuals have filed for unemployment benefits
- ESD has paid out nearly \$5.4 billion in benefits
- 844,077 individuals who have filed an initial claim have been paid

**Snohomish County:** Initial claims filed decreased from 3,580 to 3,493 down 2% from the week before. Similar to the week before, nearly 1 in 5 of new initial claims for unemployment, during the week of May 31-June 6, were in the following industries: transportation equipment manufacturing, specialty trade contractors, and food services/drinking places. See the dashboard [here](#).

ESD will send out the next weekly new claims press release on Thursday, June 18 at 10 a.m. Pacific Time.

For more information please read ESD's [news release](#).

## AG Ferguson Challenges Department of Education Decision Blocking Coronavirus Aid for Washington Students

Washington State Attorney General (AG) Bob Ferguson will be asking the court today, June 11, to immediately block restrictions placed on student aid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act.

For more information please read the AG's [news release](#).

## New DOH Blog: Lessons from the 1918 Flu Pandemic

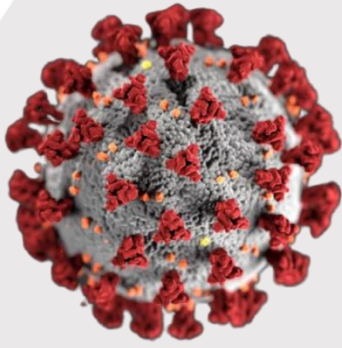
Pandemics don't come when they are convenient. In March 1918, when the first cases of pandemic flu were identified, we were fighting World War I. During the 1918 flu pandemic, about 500 million people got flu and 50 million people died from it. There was no vaccine. There were no good treatments. Health care systems around the country were totally overwhelmed, and people couldn't get the care they needed. Still, the 1918 flu pandemic taught us important lessons that resonate still today.

[Read the full blog.](#)

## PPP Continues to Offer Loans and Grants

According to a June 6 [report from the US SBA](#), 93,880 Washington state-based businesses and nonprofits have received over \$12B in mostly forgivable loans that are saving jobs across the state. There is more than \$130 billion in PPP funding still available, and now, more flexibility too.

PPP funds are still available for small businesses, independent contractors, nonprofits, and tribal businesses whose operations were impacted by the



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## **U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE MAKE CHANGES TO INCREASE FLEXIBILITY OF THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP)**

The PPP Small Business Relief Fix Bill, H.R. 7010 is now on the way to the President for signature.

## **IRS PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON EMPLOYER LEAVE-BASED DONATION PROGRAMS THAT AID VICTIMS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provided guidance for employers whose employees forgo sick, vacation, or personal leave because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

coronavirus outbreak. And with the enactment of the PPP Flexibility Act, there is more flexibility, such as the extension of time to spend loan proceeds from eight weeks to 24 weeks and the expansion in the percentage of funds that can be used for non-payroll expenses.

## **U.S. Senate and House Make Changes to Increase Flexibility of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**

The U.S. Senate passed the PPP Small Business Relief Fix Bill, HR 7010, previously passed by the U.S. House, is now on the way to the President for signature. The Bill responds to concerns that the PPP, potentially a grant if employers met established criteria, was so restrictive as to make compliance a difficult task. The bill authorizes the following changes:

1. Extends covered loan period from eight to 24 weeks.
2. Ensures full access to employer payroll tax deferment for businesses that take PPP loans.
3. Relaxes the requirement that PPP loans be spent on payroll costs from 75% to 60%.
4. Provides a 'rehiring safe harbor' for businesses to still qualify for loan forgiveness if they are unable to rehire employees due to effects of enhanced Unemployment Insurance.
5. Establishes a 'safe harbor' for businesses to qualify for loan forgiveness if they cannot return to full business operations due to state orders or restrictions.

One issue which was not resolved was use of PPP by all non-profit organizations. Many economic development organizations; like the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County (EASC), are private non-profits and currently cannot use the PPP.

For more information please read this [article](#) and [H.R. 7010](#).

## **IRS Provides Guidance on Employer Leave-Based Donation Programs that Aid Victims of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provided guidance for employers whose employees forgo sick, vacation, or personal leave because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

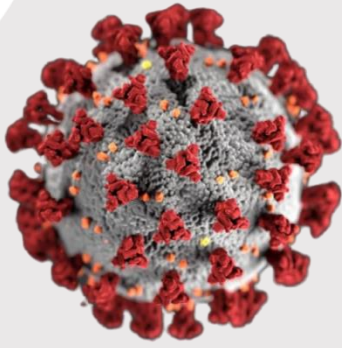
[Notice 2020-46](#) provides that cash payments employers make to charitable organizations that provide relief to victims of the COVID-19 pandemic in exchange for sick, vacation, or personal leave which their employees forgo will not be treated as compensation. Similarly, the employees will not be treated as receiving the value of the leave as income and cannot claim a deduction for the leave that they donated to their employer.

Employers, however, may deduct these cash payments as a business expense or as a charitable contribution deduction if the employer otherwise meets the respective requirements of either section.

[Notice 2020-46](#) provides further details for employers with leave donation programs.

Additional information about tax relief for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on [IRS.gov](#).

For more information please read the IRS' [news release](#).



# COVID-19

## **NEW RESULTS: WEEKLY CENSUS BUREAU SURVEY PROVIDES NEAR REAL-TIME IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

New results from the Small Business Pulse Survey have been released for the week of May 31 – June 6.

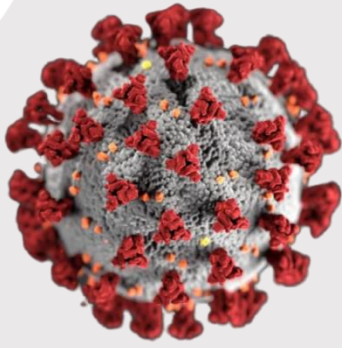
### **New Results: Weekly Census Bureau Survey Provides Near-Real-Time Impacts of COVID-19 on Small Businesses**

The Small Business Pulse Survey includes information on location closings, changes in employment, disruptions in the supply chain, the use of federal assistance programs, and expectations concerning future operations. New results have been released for the week of May 31 – June 6.

Washington Small Businesses surveyed reported the following impacts of COVID-19 during the week of May 31-June 6:

- 39.8% of respondents reported a large negative effect from COVID-19 on their business (41.3% national average), 47% reported a moderate negative effect (43.3% national average)
- 55.6% of businesses in the last week experienced a decrease in operating revenues, sales, and receipts, compared to the national average of 50.3%
- 29.4% of businesses temporarily closed for at least one day last week (26.5 national average)
- 29.6% of businesses decreased the total number of hours worked by paid employees (26.2% national average)
- 32.5% of businesses experienced disruptions in its supply chain (35.8% national average)
- 15.6% of businesses have missed a scheduled payment, such as rent, utilities, payroll, since March 13, 2020 (14.9% national average)
- 70.7% of businesses requested financial assistance from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) since March 13, compared to the national average of 74.4%
- 65.0% received financial assistance from PPP since March 13 (71.2% national average)
- 41.7% think it will take more than 6 months for their business to return to normal

Please visit the Census Bureau's [webpage](#) to review data from the Small Business Pulse Survey.



# COVID-19

## CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Please note: The statistics are also available on the [Snohomish Health District website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

### ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help. For information to be texted to you, text **Coronavirus** to **211-211**.

## Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of June 11, 2020)

This Friday, June 12, will be SHD's last daily update on case counts. Data on case counts are available through the Department of Health [dashboard](#). The shift in reporting will allow SHD to focus on monitoring metrics for entering into Phase 3 in the future.

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:50 p.m.
Confirmed	3,099
Probable	443
Deceased	153

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:50 p.m.
Arlington	128 (121 recovered)
Bothell*	221 (206 recovered)
Brier	22 (22 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	357 (306 recovered)
Everett	1,050 (852 recovered)
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	29 (24 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	126 (120 recovered)
Lynnwood	671 (591 recovered)
Marysville	267 (225 recovered)
Mill Creek	58 (48 recovered)
Monroe	91 (78 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	117 (104 recovered)
Mukilteo	68 (60 recovered)
Snohomish	163 (149 recovered)
Stanwood	113 (93 recovered)
Sultan	8 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	24 (21 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	12 (11 recovered)
Woodway	8 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. \*Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.